



Alabama Moon

By Watt Key

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For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't know or understand; he's become property of the government he has been avoiding all his life. As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness survival skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there. This title has Common Core connections.

Alabama Moon is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Alabama Moon By Watt Key Bibliography

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- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 6-8—Moon, 10, has spent most of his life in a camouflaged shelter in the forest with his father, a Vietnam veteran who distrusts people and the government. Pap has educated him in both academics and survival skills. His life suddenly changes when the land is sold to a lawyer and his father dies. The lawyer discovers him and, believing what he is doing is best for the child, turns him over to Mr. Gene from the local boys home. When Moon escapes, Mr. Gene alerts the constable, an emotionally unstable bully who becomes obsessed with capturing him. Once at the home, though, Moon makes his first real friends and learns what friendship is all about. Much of the story revolves around multiple chases, captures, and escapes. The ending might be a bit too perfect, but it is a happy one for Moon. The book is well written with a flowing style, plenty of dialogue, and lots of action. The characters are well drawn and three-dimensional, except for the constable—but then, maybe that's all there is to him. Even those who knew him as a child have nothing good to say about him. The language is in keeping with the characters' personalities and the situations. Although Moon is only 10, older readers will also enjoy the book and will better understand the adults' perspectives.—*Nancy P. Reeder, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review This excellent novel of survival and adventure begins with the death of young Moon's father, an antigovernment radical who has been living off the land in rural Alabama with Moon for years. Moon has never known any truth but his dad's, and so he tries to continue his father's lifestyle.

Unfortunately, Moon quickly finds himself in the claws of civilization, as personified by a sadistic cop. After a brief stint in jail (a lifetime of hunting and gathering leaves Moon hilariously pleased with the prison food), Moon again lights out for the territories, only to be recaptured and end up in reform school. Of course, no reform school is gonna keep Moon in check. Key's first novel is populated with memorable characters--such as Moon's reform-school buddy's dad, whose life is devoted to drinking and shooting machine guns--and studded with utterly authentic details about rural Alabama and survivalism. Stylistically, the book is perfectly paced, and Moon's narration is thoroughly believable. A terrific choice for reluctant readers and also for fans of Gary Paulsen's Brian novels. *Ilene Cooper*

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Review

"Excellent. A terrific choice for reluctant readers." ?*Booklist, Starred Review*

"An unusual coming-of-age story." ?*The New York Times Book Review*

"A winningly fresh look at life and culture almost never seen in children's books." ?*The Horn Book Magazine*

"Key writes honestly about hunting, trapping and the hardships of survival in this rather unusual coming-of-age story." ?*Kirkus Reviews*

"Well written with a flowing style, plenty of dialogue, and lots of action." ?*School Library Journal*

"Compelling." ?*Voices of Youth Advocates*

“Absorbing.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“For boys who dream of unfettered life in the great outdoors . . . Moon's a bona fide hero.” ?*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Barbara Richardson:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Publication is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They can be reading whatever they have because their hobby is actually reading a book. What about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, individual feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will want this Alabama Moon.

Jonathan Carney:

Often the book Alabama Moon will bring that you the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to read, this book very acceptable to you. The book Alabama Moon is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book in the official web site, so you can more easily to read the book.

Jack Morgan:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Together with book everyone in this world can certainly share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Plenty of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only the story that share in the guides. But also they write about advantage about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that exist now. The authors in this world always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some exploration before they write to their book. One of them is this Alabama Moon.

John Wiser:

Alabama Moon can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to place every word into satisfaction arrangement in writing Alabama Moon but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can drawn you into completely new stage of crucial contemplating.

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